

## STAFF ROSTER

[Cine D. Ivery - Chief of Staff](#)

### Capitol Office

[Katherine Agard - Consultant](#)

[Stan DiOrio - Legislative Director](#)

[Elane Douglas - Managing Assistant](#)

[Jennifer Hanson - Director of Communications](#)

[Rozanne Jones - Scheduler /Executive Assistant](#)

[Salena Pryor - Legislative Black Caucus Consultant](#)

[Emily Rice - Legislative Aide](#)

### Inglewood District Office

[Eboney Anderson - Scheduler /Executive Assistant](#)

[Cazzie Burns - District Rep](#)

[Samahndi Cunningham - Office Assistant](#)

[Alma Marquez - District Rep](#)

[Bill Orton - District Rep](#)

[Bernard Tolliver - District Rep](#)

□□□

## Upcoming Events...

**Saturday, February 23** – Sen. Wright, BOE and FTB present [Free Income Tax Preparation Assistance at CSU Dominguez Hills](#). Click link above or call 1-323-980-1221 for an appointment! 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

**Friday, March 15** -- Sen. Wright hosts luncheon honoring the 35<sup>th</sup> Senate District Women of Distinction for 2013.

## Greetings!

A very Happy New Year to you all, as we begin the 2013-14 Session in Sacramento.

In today's E-Newsletter, I would like to share with you the events I got to experience with residents of the 35<sup>th</sup> District in November and December of 2012, as we turn our attention to the work that lies ahead in 2013.

The next E-Newsletter will highlight our incredible Women of Distinction, and the legislative goals I will pursue on your behalf.

As always, thank you for reading, and for your support as your State Senator.



Wright welcomed representatives of the CA Small Business Association for a December meeting in his Inglewood District Office.

California State Senator

Because of technical changes that needed to be made as the 25<sup>th</sup> Senate District transitioned



to become the 35<sup>th</sup> District, we were unable to send the October – August 2012 edition of our E-Newsletter out to you. [It is now available on Senator Wright's web page](#). In it you will find stories on the passing of two great California legislative trailblazers, highlights of the Annual School Readiness & Health Fair and the Space Shuttle Endeavour's big move to its new home at the California Science Center.

## In this issue...

- Annual Holiday Celebration
- District Open House
- Watts Willowbrook Parade
- Justice for Murdered Children Award
- Community Spotlight: Carson
- 35<sup>th</sup> District Education Summit
- Senate Fellowship Applications Due
- CA State Summer School for Arts
- CA Student Aid Alert!
- Community Beautification Day
- Watts Gang Taskforce Meeting
- Mental Health Resources
- Mobilehome Residency Law Book

## Wright, Bradford join community for holiday celebration as 2013 Session gets underway

Senator Wright and Assemblyman Steven Bradford were thrilled to be able bring hundreds of local children some much-needed holiday cheer, as they hosted their [4th Annual Holiday Celebration](#) and Toy Giveaway at Rowley Park in Gardena.

The festive annual event gives Wright and Bradford a chance to mingle with residents from their districts and discuss their priorities for the upcoming



legislative

session in a relaxed, personal setting. Meanwhile, each of the children who attended had a chance to visit with "Santa" and go home with a gift donated to the host organizations – non-profit National Family Life & Education Center and Enabler Access Information Services – by one of the event's many generous local sponsors.

Participants also enjoyed a lunch of Subway sandwiches and entertainment by the lovely young ladies from Courtney's School of Dance in Gardena.

Above right: Carson Mayor Jim Dear, Wright, Gloria Gray, Gardena Councilwoman Rachel Johnson and Bradford share holiday cheer with 5-year-old Taj Kellum of the Boys & Girls Club of Los Angeles; Left: Wright and Bradford with some of their Holiday Celebration guests.

[\(Click here to view the photo album from this event.\)](#)

## Legislators host community at Holiday Open House

Senator Wright and Assemblyman Bradford once again hosted their annual Holiday Open House at the One Manchester Boulevard offices in Inglewood.

The open invitation brought residents and community leaders together for an evening to share in the joy of the holiday season and to talk about their priorities for the new two-year Legislative Session just now getting underway in the State Capitol. Some 150 people attended, including some residents new to Senator Wright's redrawn district who said how happy they are to have Wright fighting for them in Sacramento!



Above R: Wright greets Janet Esposito; Below L: Wright chats with Fabian Wesson and Jackie Dupont-Walker [\(View album\)](#).



**Struggling to pay your heating bills this winter?! You may be eligible for help paying for your utilities** through the federal Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). If you are an individual making less than \$24,867 a year or a couple making less than \$32,518, [go on-line](#) or call 1-866-675-6623 to locate your service provider and apply. Also be sure to ask your utility provider about **weatherization assistance** to make your home energy efficient and further reduce your costs!



## Hundreds brave rain for annual Watts Willowbrook Parade

On the rainy first day of December, Senator Wright rode in the 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Watts Willowbrook Parade. Community members with umbrellas braved the weather and lined the sidewalk all along the parade route. Wright was honored with a trophy for his longtime support of the popular event. In remarks to the crowd, the Senator spoke with great reverence of the late Edna Aliewine, who founded the parade.



Wright rides in the 2012 Watts Willowbrook Parade.

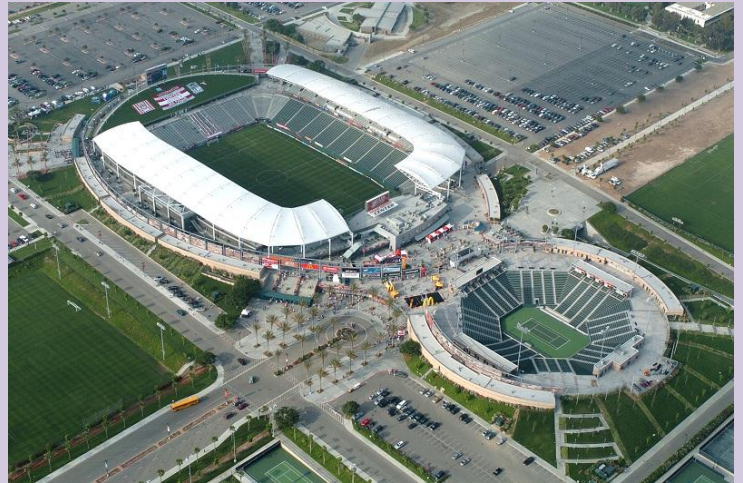
## Wright honored for his support of Justice for Murdered Children

Senator Wright was honored to receive an award from LaWanda Hawkins of the organization Justice for Murdered Children (JFMC). Hawkins' only child, Reggie, was a victim of homicide. In his memory, she founded JFMC with a mission to reduce the number of homicides, cut the number of unsolved homicides and assist families that have lost loved ones to homicide with burial expenses, support groups and counseling. JFMC also works to educate the public on ways to help policymakers and law enforcement become more effective and responsive to the needs of homicide victims and their families.



JFMC's LaWanda Hawkins presents award to Wright.

## Community Spotlight: The City of Carson



Two professional soccer teams play in Carson's Home Depot Center.

Carson is the youngest municipality in the South Bay, having incorporated in 1968, but the city's rich history dates back thousands of years. Native Americans lived on land that is now Carson some 6,000 years before Spanish explorers arrived in the 1760s. The Spanish Governor of California granted 75,000 acres that included present-day Carson to Juan Dominguez, a military man who had accompanied Father Junipero Serra to protect him as they set out on foot to establish California's missions, upon his retirement in 1782.

At the center of that land was Dominguez Hill, where the landowner's nephew established the Rancho Dominguez Adobe in 1826. The historic structure still stands today, and is open to the public as a museum. The adobe and surrounding lands were home to vast herds of cattle whose hides were traded with European ships at port in San Pedro, up until a terrible drought in the 1860s all but wiped them out. The region became a major oil drilling site from the 1920s until 1960, with some 350 derricks pumping an average of 300 barrels per day.

Today, Carson is home to California State University Dominguez Hills, which was built in the wake of the Watts riots, in response to public outcry over lack of access to higher education in LA's south suburbs, and is one of the most diverse campuses in the nation.

The community held the nation's first aviation meet in 1910 and built a velodrome to host cycling events for the '84 Olympics. It is also home to the landing pad for the Goodyear blimp.

A more recent City addition is the Home Depot Center, which features a soccer stadium, ADT tennis stadium and a track and field facility. Two Major League Soccer teams play their home games there: Club Deportivo Chivas USA and Los Angeles Galaxy, the three-time championship team for which global star David Beckham played until the end of 2012.

## Wright hosts area school leaders for 35<sup>th</sup> Senate District Education Summit



Above: Wright greets State Superintendent Torlakson; Right: 35<sup>th</sup> District educational leaders come together to improve schools.



Senator Wright hosted the first 35<sup>th</sup> Senate District Education Summit, bringing together more than twenty education leaders from his newly-redrawn district – including district superintendents and the chancellor of the Los Angeles Community College District – for a meeting at the Ayers Hotel in Hawthorne. The group was joined by Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson and Senator Carol Liu for a discussion of school funding and ways to work together more effectively. Wright hopes their efforts can help districts avoid the financial pitfalls that have caused great struggles for several local school districts in an era of budget cuts and declining enrollment.

## Wright spotlights educational opportunities offered by State of CA

### Center for CA Studies Capitol Fellows Program

Senator Wright reminds college graduates interested in government and public service that the Senate Fellows Program is accepting applications for the 2013-14 Session through February 11.

The Center for California Studies at California State University Sacramento (CSUS) offers four Capitol Fellows Programs: Senate, Assembly, Executive and Judicial. Those selected are placed in the offices of CA State Legislators for 11 months, beginning in October.

Fellows will also participate in academic seminars with legislators, senior staff, journalists, lobbyists and state government officials, all while earning graduate units.

The Capitol Fellows Program provides valuable training that can be applied to all walks of life. Former Fellows include current members of Congress and the

California Legislature, judges and other community leaders.

***Anyone who will be at least 20 years old and a college graduate by September 1, 2013 may apply.***

Participants' enrollment fees are paid by the program, and they receive a monthly stipend, as well as health, dental and vision benefits. They are considered full-time CSUS employees.

*Applications, including documents and recommendations, must be received by the Center by 5 p.m. on **February 11!***

You can [visit the CSUS website for details and applications](#). Brochures are available in Wright's Inglewood office.

### California State Summer School for the Arts

The CA State Summer School for the Arts is seeking the most talented high school-aged visual, literary, media and performing artists in California to attend its 27<sup>th</sup> annual summer arts

program at the CA Institute of the Arts in Valencia from July 13 – Aug. 9, 2013.

Students will get the chance to study animation, film/video, creative writing, dance, music, theater and visual arts with top professionals. Financial aid is available, and top participants are eligible for college scholarships.

*Applications are due on or before **February 28!*** [Visit CSSA's website to get program details and apply.](#)

### CA Student Aid Alert!

California offers several resources to support higher learning, including Cal Grants. The program ensures no qualified student is turned away from a college education because they can't afford it. Priority is given to students pursuing training in fields with high employment growth, need or demand and/or high wages. *The priority deadline to apply for fall is **March 2!*** [Visit the Student Aid Commission website for info & to apply.](#)



## COMMUNITY RESOURCES

*Please don't hesitate to contact our Inglewood District Office if you require assistance in any of these areas:*

- Medi-Cal
- Auto insurance
- Consumer complaints
- Unemployment insurance
- Child support and child care
- Disability insurance
- Department of Motor Vehicles
- Workers' compensation
- Franchise Tax Board
- Government forms and applications
- Complaints about state departments
- Small business assistance

*If you have an idea for a local project, or have a problem with a state or local agency that is not getting solved, our office can also:*

- Mediate between you and government agencies or offices;
- Assist you in obtaining funding for local projects, such as bikeways, parks, schools, or senior citizen programs;
- Bring state experts into your community for technical assistance or advice on local issues;
- Help communicate your concerns to local, state and federal officials;
- Bring state administrators into your community so they hear first-hand about local needs;
- Visit your neighborhood or group to discuss state legislation or programs.

## Wright thanks Community Beautification Day volunteers



**Wright with volunteers beautifying Bret Harte School.**

Senator Wright warmly greeted the 200-plus volunteers who turned out to help with City Year and AEG's Community Beautification Day and commended them for their efforts to beautify Bret Harte Middle School.

Wright also thanked City Year, which arranged the event, for all the work they do with schools and students throughout South Los Angeles.

## Wright addresses Watts Gang Taskforce, fields questions

Senator Wright attended a November meeting of the Watts Gang Taskforce, as did Congresswoman Janice Hahn and Los Angeles City Councilman Joe Buscaino. Wright addressed taskforce members and fielded individual questions from participants regarding the Watts community and local businesses before stopping to take pictures with residents who attended the meeting.



**Wright with resident Royce Esters.**

### **Mental Health Resources and Education: Where to Get Help**

**If you or a loved one are in need of mental health services, including suicide prevention, or information on distress signs to look for, help in any of California's 58 counties is a click away.**

**Attention Mobile Home Park Owners and Residents!** The Senate Select Committee on Manufactured Homes and Communities has updated its [Mobilehome Residency Law Book](#) for 2013. This publication contains all of the current codes governing mobilehome residency in California and includes answers to more than 60 frequently-asked questions. If you do not find the information you need, please don't hesitate to [contact the select committee](#) or our office for assistance.

## California State Senator Roderick D. Wright – District 35

Senator Wright represents the communities of Alondra Park, Carson, Compton, East Carson, East Compton, Gardena, Harbor City, Hawthorne, Inglewood, Lawndale, Lennox, Long Beach, Los Angeles, Palos Verdes Peninsula, Rancho Dominguez, San Pedro, Torrance, Watts, West Athens, West Carson, West Compton, Willowbrook and Wilmington.

**Capitol Office**  
State Capitol, Room 2032  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
(916) 651-4035

Website: <http://www.senate.ca.gov/wright>  
E-mail: [Senator Roderick D. Wright](mailto:Senator.Roderick.D.Wright@senate.ca.gov)

**District Office**  
One Manchester Blvd., #600  
Inglewood, CA 90301  
(310) 412-0393